

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Alaska Red Cedar: Export Procedures

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: Section 347 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1998 provides a formula under which western red cedar logs that are determined to be surplus to the needs of Alaska manufacturers shall be made available at domestic rates to domestic processors in the contiguous 48 states before the logs may be exported to a foreign country. The Act also stipulates that all Alaska yellow cedar logs may be sold at export rates. To implement the Act, new procedures will be included as part of a Region 10 supplement to the Forest Service Timber Sale Contract Administration Manual. Procedures regarding export of utility grade and chip sawlogs in will be updated as part of the supplement. The Forest Service hereby gives notice that a draft supplement is now available for public review and comment.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 30, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Single copies of the draft procedures may be obtained by writing Phil Janik, Regional Forester (2430), Alaska Region, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 21628, Juneau, Alaska 99802-1628. Send written comments on the draft procedures to the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Greg Griffith or Bill Wilson, Forest Management Staff, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 21628, Juneau, Alaska 99802-1628, (907) 586-7915/7875.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Act establishes a process under which western red cedar, surplus to the needs of domestic processors in Alaska, shall be made available at domestic rates to domestic processors in the contiguous 48 states before it may be exported and

sold at export rates. The Act also stipulates that all Alaska yellow cedar may be sold at export rates at the election of the timber sale holder.

Specifically, the Act provides that if the total volume from all timber sales sold on the Tongass National Forest is equivalent to the annual average portion of the decadal allowable sale quantity in the Tongass Land Management Plan and if each of these sales meets 60 percent of normal profit and risk at time of sale advertisement, all of the surplus western red cedar will be made available to domestic processors in the contiguous 48 states. If less than the annual average portion of the decadal allowable sale quantity is sold in fiscal year 1998, therefore, meeting the 60 percent of the normal profit and risk standard, then the volume of the surplus western red cedar available to domestic processors in the contiguous 48 states will be limited to the ratio determined by dividing the actual total volume sold in fiscal year 1998 by the annual average allowable sale quantity. The amount of western red cedar determined to be the difference between the amount of western red cedar determined by the Regional Forester to be surplus to Alaskan processors' needs and the calculated western red cedar volume determined to be available to domestic processors in the contiguous 48 States may be exported to a foreign country. All western red cedar not sold to domestic processors in Alaska or the contiguous 48 States may be exported and sold at export rates.

To implement this Act, the Forest Service has developed draft export procedures for fiscal year 1998 sales of western red cedar that would be included in a regional supplemental to the Timber Sale Contract Administration Manual. The procedures will provide estimates for the volumes of western red cedar needed for processing in Alaska, available for domestic processing in the contiguous 48 States, and available for export to foreign markets. The draft procedures also include instructions for the calculation of sales, such as how western red cedar already sold in fiscal year 1998 will be taken into account, and how the fair market value of western red cedar in the three market destinations will be determined; and how western red cedar will be treated in 6-Month and 12-Month Timber Sale

Announcements. The draft supplement will also update export procedures for utility grade and chip sawlogs in Alaska, laying out key definitions, appraisal guidelines, and documentation requirements. Procedures will be used by Forest Service employees in Alaska for processing proposed sale of western red cedar.

Copies of the draft procedures have been submitted to the following groups for review and comment: The governors of Alaska, Washington, and Oregon, conservation organizations, forest industry groups, prospective timber sale bidders, and other organizations interested in the draft Alaska export policy on national forest lands in southeast Alaska. The public is also invited to comment on the proposal.

Dated: March 26, 1998.

Phil Janik,

Alaska Regional Forester.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Eastern Washington Cascades Provincial Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of upcoming meeting.

SUMMARY: The Eastern Washington Cascades Provincial Advisory Committee will meet on March 19 and 20, 1998. The meeting on March 19 will be held at the Chelan Fire Station, 232 E. Wapato Street, Chelan, Washington. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. This meeting will focus on Late Successional Reserves, information sharing, and new developments in implementing the Northwest Forest Plan. The meeting on March 20 will be held at the Wenatchee National Forest Headquarters office, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, Washington. This meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. The focus of discussion will be management of noxious weeds. All Eastern Washington Cascades Province Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are welcome to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this meeting to Paul Hart, Designated Federal